

Claims

- [c1] A valve control system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant issuing from a water pump to a radiator, a bypass line and a heater comprising:
- a valve housing having ports formed therein including an inlet port configured to receive coolant issuing from a water pump, a first outlet port configured to direct coolant to a radiator, a second outlet port configured to direct coolant to a bypass line and a third outlet port configured to direct coolant to a heater;
 - a valve rotor, rotatably disposed within the valve housing, wherein the valve rotor can provide at least one internal fluid passage within the valve rotor to provide fluid communication between the inlet port and at least one of the first outlet port, the second outlet port and the third outlet port;
 - a drive mechanism that is operatively connected to the valve rotor for moving the valve rotor into at least one preselected rotational orientation; and
 - a processor that is operatively connected to the drive mechanism to selectively rotate the valve rotor.
- [c2] The valve system for distributing and regulating the flow

of coolant according to claim 1, wherein the processor is operatively connected to a plurality of sensors.

[c3] The valve system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of sensors includes at least one temperature sensor.

[c4] The valve system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 1, further comprising a fluid pump that is fluidly connected to the inlet port.

[c5] The valve system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 4, wherein the fluid pump is powered by electricity.

[c6] The valve system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 1, further comprising a radiator that is in fluid connection to the first outlet port.

[c7] The valve system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 1, further comprising a biasing mechanism to position the valve rotor in a preselected rotational orientation relative to the valve housing.

[c8] The valve system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 1, wherein the at least one internal fluid passage includes a first fluid passage that extends down along a central axis of the valve rotor and

the at least one internal fluid passage includes at least one second fluid passage that extends from the first fluid passage to at least one opening in the outer surface of the valve rotor, wherein the at least one opening can be selectively positioned by the rotation of the valve rotor via the drive mechanism to selectively control coolant flow from the inlet port to the first outlet port, the second outlet port and the third outlet port.

[c9] The valve system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 1, wherein the at least one internal fluid passage includes a gap between the valve rotor and the valve housing and further including at least one flexible seal between the valve rotor and the inlet port and at least one flexible seal between the valve rotor and at least one of the first outlet port, the second outlet port and the third outlet port to prevent fluid from flowing into the gap.

[c10] A valve control system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant issuing from a water pump to a radiator, a bypass line and a heater comprising:
a valve housing having ports formed therein including an inlet port configured to receive coolant issuing from a water pump, a first outlet port configured to direct coolant to a radiator, a second outlet port configured to direct coolant to a bypass line and a third outlet port

configured to direct coolant to a heater;
a valve rotor, rotatably disposed within the valve housing, wherein the valve rotor can provide at least one internal fluid passage within the valve rotor to provide fluid communication between the inlet port and at least one of the first outlet port, the second outlet port and the third outlet port;
a drive mechanism that is operatively connected to the valve rotor for moving the valve rotor into at least one preselected rotational orientation;
a processor that is operatively connected to the drive mechanism to selectively rotate the valve rotor;
at least one sensor that is operatively connected to the processor; and
a fluid pump that is fluidly connected to the inlet port.

[c11] A valve control system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant issuing from a water pump to a radiator, a bypass line and a heater comprising:
a valve housing having ports formed therein including an inlet port configured to receive coolant issuing from a water pump, a first outlet port configured to direct coolant to a radiator, a second outlet port configured to direct coolant to a bypass line and a third outlet port configured to direct coolant to a heater, wherein the inlet port and first outlet port are located in a first plane and

the second outlet port and the third outlet port are located in a second plane;

a valve rotor, rotatably disposed within the valve housing, wherein the valve rotor can provide at least one internal fluid passage within the valve rotor to provide fluid communication between the inlet port and at least one of the first outlet port, the second outlet port and the third outlet port;

a drive mechanism that is operatively connected to the valve rotor for moving the valve rotor into at least one preselected rotational orientation;

a biasing mechanism disposed about a shaft of the valve rotor to position the valve rotor in a preselected rotational orientation relative to the valve housing;

a processor that is operatively connected to the drive mechanism to selectively rotate the valve rotor;

at least one sensor that is operatively connected to the processor; and

a fluid pump that is fluidly connected to the one inlet port.

[c12] The valve system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 11, further comprising a radiator that is in fluid connection with the first outlet port.

[c13] The valve control system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 11, wherein the at least one internal fluid passage includes a first fluid passage that extends down along a central axis of the valve rotor and the at least one internal fluid passage includes a plurality of second fluid passages from the first fluid passage to at least one first surface opening in the valve rotor in the first plane, wherein the plurality of second fluid passages can be positioned by the rotation of the valve rotor via the drive mechanism to selectively control coolant flow from the inlet port to the first outlet port in the first plane and from the inlet port to the second outlet port and the third outlet port in the second plane.

[c14] A valve control system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant issuing from a water pump to a radiator, a bypass line and a heater comprising:
a valve housing having ports formed therein including an inlet port configured to receive coolant issuing from a water pump, a first outlet port configured to direct coolant to a radiator, a second outlet port configured to direct coolant to a bypass line, a third outlet port configured to direct coolant to a heater and a fourth outlet port configured to degas coolant within the valve housing, wherein the inlet port and first outlet port are located in a first plane and the second outlet port and the third

outlet port are located in a second plane and the fourth outlet port is located on a bottom portion of a valve housing, wherein the first plane and the second plane are substantially perpendicular to a central axis for the valve rotor and the first plane and the second plane are axially spaced from each other;

a valve rotor, rotatably disposed within the valve housing, wherein the valve rotor can provide at least one internal fluid passage within the valve rotor to provide fluid communication between the inlet port and at least one of the first outlet port, the second outlet port, the third outlet port and the fourth outlet port;

a drive mechanism that is operatively connected to the valve rotor for moving the valve rotor into at least one preselected rotational orientation;

a biasing mechanism disposed about a shaft of the valve rotor to position the valve rotor in a preselected rotational orientation relative to the valve housing;

a drive mechanism operatively connected to the valve rotor;

a processor that is operatively connected to the drive mechanism to selectively rotate the valve rotor;

at least one sensor that is operatively connected to the processor; and

a fluid pump that is fluidly connected to the inlet port.

[c15] The valve control system for distributing and regulating the flow of coolant according to claim 14, wherein the at least one internal fluid passage includes a first fluid passage parallel to a central axis of the valve rotor and having a first surface opening in a top portion of the valve rotor and a second surface opening in the bottom portion of the valve rotor and the at least one internal fluid passage includes a second fluid passage from the first fluid passage to a third surface opening in the valve rotor in the first plane and the at least one internal fluid passage includes a third fluid passage from the first fluid passage to a fourth surface opening in the valve rotor in the first plane and the at least one internal fluid passage includes a fourth fluid passage from the first fluid passage to a fifth surface opening in the valve rotor in the first plane, wherein the second fluid passage, the third fluid passage and the fourth fluid passage can be positioned by the rotation of the valve rotor via the drive mechanism to selectively control coolant flow from the inlet port to the first outlet port in the first plane and the at least one internal fluid passage includes a fifth fluid passage from the first fluid passage to a sixth surface opening in the valve rotor in the second plane, wherein the fifth fluid passage can be positioned by the rotation of the valve rotor via the drive mechanism to selectively control coolant flow from the inlet port to the second

outlet port in the second plane and the third outlet port in the second plane and the at least one internal fluid passage includes at least one sixth fluid passage from the first fluid passage to at least one seventh surface opening in the bottom portion of the valve rotor, wherein the at least one sixth fluid passage can be positioned by the rotation of the valve rotor via the drive mechanism to selectively provide degassing of coolant, passing within the valve, via the fourth outlet port.